

Elementary Spelling Inventory (ESI)

The Elementary Spelling Inventory (ESI) covers more stages than the PSI. It can be used as early as first grade, particularly if a school system wants to use the same inventory across the elementary grades. The 25 words are ordered by difficulty to sample features of the letter name–alphabetic to derivational relations stages. Call out enough words so that you have at least five or six misspelled words to analyze. If any students spell more than 20 words correctly, use the Upper Level Spelling Inventory.

1. bed
2. ship
3. when
4. jump
5. float
6. train
7. place
8. drive
9. bright
10. shopping
11. spoil
12. serving
13. chewed
14. carries
15. marched
16. shower
17. bottle
18. favor
19. ripen
20. cellar
21. pleasure
22. fortunate
23. confident
24. civilize
25. opposition

I hopped out of bed this morning. *bed*
 The ship sailed around the island. *ship*
 When will you come back? *when*
 He had a jump on his head after he fell. *jump*
 I can float on the water with my new raft. *float*
 I rode the train to the next town. *train*
 I found a new place to put my books. *place*
 I learned to drive a car. *drive*
 The light is very bright. *bright*
 She went shopping for new shoes. *shopping*
 The food will spoil if it is not kept cool. *spoil*
 The restaurant is serving dinner tonight. *serving*
 The dog chewed up my favorite sweater yesterday. *chewed*
 She carries apples in her basket. *carries*
 We marched in the parade. *marched*
 The shower in the bathroom was very hot. *shower*
 The bottle broke into pieces on the tile floor. *bottle*
 He did his brother a favor by taking out the trash. *favor*
 The fruit will ripen over the next few days. *ripen*
 I went down to the cellar for the can of paint. *cellar*
 It was a pleasure to listen to the choir sing. *pleasure*
 It was fortunate that the driver had snow tires. *fortunate*
 I am confident that we can win the game. *confident*
 They wanted to civilize the forest people. *civilize*
 The coach said the opposition would be tough. *opposition*